

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-24 are pending. Claims 1-8 have been canceled. The specification has been amended. Entry of the above Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to the examination of this application. If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Dated: January 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Alphonso A. Collins

Registration No.: 43,559

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant